



ANTHONY G. BROWN, MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Media Contacts:
press@oag.state.md.us
410-576-7009

Attorney General Brown Sues Trump Administration for Halting Development of Wind Energy *Significant Environmental, Employment, and Economic Benefits for Maryland at Risk*

BALTIMORE, MD (May 5, 2025) – Attorney General Anthony G. Brown today joined a coalition of 18 attorneys general in filing a [lawsuit](#) against the Trump administration over its unlawful attempt to freeze the development of wind energy.

On January 20, President Trump issued a Presidential Memorandum that, among other things, indefinitely halted all federal approvals necessary for the development of offshore and onshore wind energy projects pending federal review. Pursuant to this directive, federal agencies have stopped all permitting and approval activities and have even issued a stop work order to a fully permitted project in New York that had already begun construction. Wind energy is a homegrown source of reliable, affordable energy that supports hundreds of thousands of jobs, creates billions of dollars in economic activity and tax payments, and supplies more than 10% of the country's electricity.

“The Trump Administration's outrageous and unlawful freeze on wind energy development is nothing short of a direct assault on Maryland's future climate security and economic prosperity. Wind power provides hardworking Marylanders with well-paying jobs, strengthens our power grid, and helps us fight the increasingly devastating impacts of climate change,” **said Attorney General Brown**. “With this lawsuit, we are protecting the livelihoods of thousands of families and standing firm against President Trump's reckless attack on an industry that offers to secure reliable, affordable, and clean energy for every Marylander.”

“The president's actions violate federal law and will make it harder for us to help Marylanders keep the money they make. One of the best strategies for driving down utility costs is ramping up clean energy production through wind power,” **said Governor Wes Moore**. “At a moment when families are feeling the strain of high energy bills, we should focus on cutting red tape, not halting critical infrastructure projects. I thank Attorney General Brown for standing by our people, our economy, and the Constitution of the United States.”

The attorneys general allege that the President's directive harms their states' efforts to secure reliable, diversified, and affordable sources of energy to meet increasing demand for electricity

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and help reduce emissions of harmful air pollutants, meet clean energy goals, and address climate change. The directive also threatens to thwart the states' significant investments in wind industry infrastructure, supply chains, and workforce development—investments that already total billions of dollars.

Maryland specifically has invested heavily in wind energy as part of its plan to fight climate change. State law requires Maryland to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2045, with wind power serving as a cornerstone of this effort. In 2023, Maryland set an ambitious goal to develop 8,500 megawatts of offshore wind energy by 2031.

The offshore wind industry is expected to be a significant source of good paying jobs and economic benefits to the state. One project alone, the Maryland Offshore Wind Project by U.S. Wind, is projected to support more than 13,000 jobs and bring over \$6 billion in economic benefits to Maryland.

Maryland has also committed millions in state funding to build a wind energy workforce and supply chain, with \$5 million allocated in Fiscal Year 2025 alone. All of these economic opportunities and climate benefits are now at risk due to the administration's abrupt halt on wind energy development.

The coalition argues that the Presidential Memorandum and federal agencies' subsequent implementation of it violate the Administrative Procedure Act and other federal laws because they, among other things, provide no reasoned explanation for categorically and indefinitely halting all wind energy development—a sudden change that reverses longstanding federal policy and is inconsistent with recent federal action propping up other forms of energy. The lawsuit also alleges that the abrupt halt on all permitting violates numerous federal statutes that prescribe specific procedures and timelines for federal permitting and approvals—procedures the administration wholly disregarded in stopping wind-energy development altogether.

In filing this lawsuit, the attorneys general are asking the Court to declare the President's directive illegal and prevent the administration from taking any action to delay or prevent wind energy development.

Joining Attorney General Brown in filing this lawsuit are the attorneys general of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington.

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